

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A processor comprising means for executing an instruction that includes a field in which a value may be assigned as a mark of enabling that a value as the result of execution of the instruction is predicted prior to or in concurrence with the execution of the instruction and a subsequent instruction is provisionally executed by using the predicted result, wherein said instruction further includes a field to contain a value that designates a method of predicting a value as the result of execution of the instruction,

wherein the predicted result is used in executing a subsequent instruction, regardless of whether the predicted value is true or false.

3-5. (Canceled).

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